CEYLON TEA PRE-DISPATCH INSPECTION — FAILED AUDIT

FAIL — HOLD DISPATCH

Inspection Parameter	Recorded Reference & Lot Details
Report Reference ID	ADL-PDI-2026-0892-TEA (Non-Conformity & Hold Report)
Inspection Date & Window	19 November 2026 | 10:00 – 13:15 IST (UTC+5:30)
Client / Overseas Buyer	[Sample Overseas Buyer — Specialty Tea Importer]
Supplier / Facility	[Sample Supplier Matara District Tea Estates & Blending (Pvt) Ltd, Sri Lanka]
Product Audited	Pure Ceylon Black Tea. Approved Buyer Golden-Tip Reference Grade (100 Sacks × 25.00 kg Net = 2,500 kg)
Overall Verdict	**FAIL — DO NOT STUFF CONTAINER OR RELEASE BALANCE PAYMENT**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & AUDIT SCOPE

A pre-dispatch third-party inspection protects buyers by catching critical quality and grade deviations **before** tea leaves Colombo. During this audit, ADL EXPO identified two major non-conformities: (1) the production lot prepared for dispatch consists of a visibly coarser, darker, lower-grade black tea that does not match the buyer-approved golden-tip reference sample, and (2) sample **TEA-S04** recorded an elevated moisture level of **9.4%** against the 7.5% maximum export threshold creating a severe risk of cup staleness, mold spoilage in transit, and buyer rejection.

2. MOISTURE, GRADE & NET WEIGHT AUDIT FINDINGS

Buyer Specifications: Pure Ceylon Black Tea matching Approved Golden-Tip Reference Sample | Moisture < 7.5% | Net weight 25.00 kg/sack.

Sample ID	Tea Lot	Target Net Wt	Actual Net Wt	Moisture %	Physical & Visual Finding	Status
TEA-S01	Ceylon Black Tea	25.00 kg	25.04 kg	**7.2%** (Max 7.5%)	Moisture within limit, but leaf is coarser/darker than approved sample	**FAIL**
TEA-S04	Ceylon Black Tea	25.00 kg	25.02 kg	**9.4%** (Max 7.5%)	Critical excess moisture (9.4%); unsealed foil liner; wrong leaf grade	**FAIL**

Sample ID	Tea Lot	Target Net Wt	Actual Net Wt	Moisture %	Physical & Visual Finding	Status
TEA-S09	Ceylon Black Tea	25.00 kg	24.98 kg	**7.4%** (Max 7.5%)	Lacks golden tips seen in approved sample.	**FAIL**
TEA-S14	Ceylon Black Tea	25.00 kg	25.01 kg	**7.9%** (Max 7.5%)	Above 7.5% moisture ceiling; dull liquor aroma and mismatched leaf size	**FAIL**

3. GRADE COMPARISON & PACKAGING NON-CONFORMITIES

Audit Area	Required Standard	Actual Finding On-Site	Result
Leaf Grade vs. Approved Sample	100% match to Buyer Approved Golden-Tip Sample	Prepared lot uses a different, coarser dark leaf grade lacking golden tips	**FAIL**
Moisture Content (TEA-S04)	Maximum 7.5% moisture across all sacks	Sample TEA-S04 measured at 9.4% moisture (1.9% over ceiling)	**FAIL**
Inner Foil Barrier Liner	Heat-sealed food-grade aluminum foil liner	Foil liner inside TEA-S04 folded open without heat seal, letting moisture in	**FAIL**
Liquor & Dry Leaf Aroma	Brisk, bright Ceylon character matching sample	Flat, slightly damp dry-leaf note on high-moisture sacks	**FAIL**

4. TIMESTAMPED DEFECT EVIDENCE

Defect Photo A — Approved Sample vs. Different Tea Lot Prepared for Dispatch

`Timestamp:2026-11-1910:34:12IST | Location:MataraDistrict,Sri Lanka`



Description: Side-by-side comparison showing the buyer-approved golden-tip reference sample on the left versus the visibly coarser, darker, off-grade black tea drawn from the prepared export lot on the right.

Defect Photo B — Sample TEA-S04 High Moisture Reading (9.4%) & Unsealed Liner

`Timestamp:2026-11-1910:52:47IST | Location:MataraDistrict,SriLanka`



Description: Calibrated moisture meter displaying 9.4% moisture in sample sack TEA-S04 (exceeding the 7.5% maximum export specification) alongside the unsealed aluminum foil barrier liner.

5. MANDATORY CORRECTIVE ACTION BEFORE RE-INSPECTION

Dispatch Hold Directive Issued to Supplier:

1. **Immediate Quarantine & Hold:** Reject the current off-grade lot and halt all container loading and export documentation.
2. **Lot Replacement to Approved Grade:** Replace the prepared tea with freshly graded stock that matches the buyer approved golden tip reference sample in leaf size, tip content, and cup profile.
3. **Moisture Control (< 7.5%) & Foil Sealing:** Verify all replacement lots test strictly below 7.5% moisture (correcting the 9.4% non-conformity seen in TEA-S04) and heat-seal every inner aluminum foil liner.
4. **Pre-Shipment Re-Audit:** Schedule a mandatory ADL EXPO re-inspection to verify grade conformity and moisture readings prior to container stuffing or balance payment release.